

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/975,033

Examiner

Jaworski Francis J.

Applicant(s)

BULLIS, JAMES K.

Art Unit

3737

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on th cover sh et with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview held 12132004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 32, 36-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10-10-2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

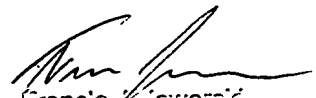
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachm nt(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12132004 .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Francis J. Jaworski
Primary Examiner

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James K. Bullis on 12-13-2004..

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 15 has been deleted in favor of:

- 15. An ultrasonic system that includes a transducer and a stand-off pad that couples wave signals between said transducer and a body to be examined, and said stand-off pad being adapted to conform to a surface of said transducer and to conform to a surface of said body to be examined thereby defining conforming surfaces of said pad, where said body to be examined attenuates said wave signals, and said wave signals are defined by successive wavefronts, where signals are distributed over a wavefront, where said standoff pad contains attenuating material having attenuation that approximately matches attenuation of said body to be examined, such that significant uneven attenuation of signals that are distributed over a respective

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wavefront is prevented, where said system has means such that said transducer produces wave signals that are wideband transmit signals, and said transducer receives signals to produce wideband receive signals, and said wideband transmit signals are pre-compensated to cause said wideband receive signals to be approximately uniform in amplitude over a wide frequency bandwidth. –

In each of claims 16 – 31, “ stand-off pad ” has been changed to -- system --.

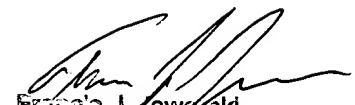
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Bullis (US6485420) claims in claim 37 features of a standoff pad in with regards to a characterizing attenuation rate expr a wideband pre-compensation system which inter alia uses the pad to achieve wideband pre-compensation to the object being examined.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jaworski
Francis J. at telephone number 571-272-4738



Francis J. Jaworski
Primary Examiner

FJJ:fjj

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